

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (original) A safety needle assembly comprising a needle hub with proximal and distal ends and a passage extending between said ends, a needle cannula mounted to said passage of said needle hub and having a pointed distal end projecting beyond said distal end of said hub, a shield having proximal and distal ends, said proximal end of said shield being hingedly mounted to said hub for rotation from a first position where said shield is spaced from said needle cannula to a second position where said shield substantially shields said needle cannula, said shield comprising at least one support wall, a channel mounted to said support wall, said channel having a top wall and opposed first and second sidewalls extending from said top wall, at least one resiliently deflectable cannula finger lock projecting from said first sidewall angularly toward said top wall, said cannula finger lock deflecting during rotation of said shield toward said second position for trapping said needle cannula.

2. (original) The safety shield assembly of claim 1, wherein said needle hub comprises an inner tubular portion securely mounted to said needle cannula and an outer collar securely mounted over said inner tubular portion, said shield being hingedly mounted to said collar of said hub.

3. (original) The safety needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said needle cannula includes a proximal end, said needle cannula extending entirely through said passage of said hub such that said proximal end of said needle cannula projects proximally beyond said proximal end of said hub.

4. (original) The safety needle assembly of claim 3, further comprising an elastomeric sleeve mounted over said proximal end of said needle cannula and securely engaged to said proximal end of said hub.

5. (original) The safety needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said top wall of said channel comprises mounting structure for mounting said channel to said support wall, said channel having opposite first and second longitudinal ends, said mounting structure being closer to said first end of said channel than to said second end, whereby said channel can be disposed in either a first rotational orientation or in a second rotational orientation relative to said proximal end and said distal end of said shield for altering positions of said channel relative to said shield and said needle cannula.

6. (original) The safety needle assembly of claim 5, wherein said support wall has a distal end remote from said proximal end of said shield, said channel being dimensioned such that, in said second rotational orientation of said channel relative to said support wall, said second end of said channel projects distally beyond said distal end of said support wall.

7. (original) The safety needle assembly of claim 6, wherein said channel is dimensioned such that in said first rotational orientation, said first end of said channel substantially aligns with said distal end of said support wall.

8. (original) The needle assembly of claim 7, wherein said channel is dimensioned such that in said first rotational orientation, said second end of said channel is substantially adjacent said proximal end of said shield.

9. (original) The safety needle assembly of claim 5, wherein said at least one cannula finger lock comprises a plurality of cannula finger locks, a first of said cannula

finger locks being substantially adjacent said first end of said channel and a second of said cannula finger locks being substantially adjacent said second end of said channel.

10. (original) The safety needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said support wall comprises a plurality of apertures extending therethrough, said channel having a plurality of mounting projections formed thereon, said mounting projections being dimensioned and disposed for locked engagement with said apertures in said support wall.

11. (original) The safety needle assembly of claim 1, wherein portions of said shield adjacent said proximal end are configured for partly surrounding said hub, said support wall extending substantially rigidly from said portions of said shield dimensioned for partly surrounding said hub.

12. (original) The safety needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said channel has an elongate convexly arcuate outer surface, said support wall having a concave surface for closely receiving said convex outer surface of said channel.

13. (original) The safety needle assembly of claim 1, further comprising a medical device connected to said needle hub.

14. (original) The safety needle assembly of claim 13, wherein the medical device comprises a holder for releasably receiving a fluid collection tube.

15. (original) The safety needle assembly of claim 13, wherein the medical device is a syringe.

16. (original) The safety needle assembly of claim 13, wherein the medical device comprises an intravenous infusion set.

17. (new) A safety needle assembly comprising a needle hub with proximal and distal ends and a passage extending between said ends, a needle cannula

mounted to said passage of said needle hub and having a pointed distal end projecting beyond said distal end of said hub, a shield having proximal and distal ends, said proximal end of said shield being hingedly mounted to said hub for rotation from a first position where said shield is spaced from said needle cannula to a second position where said shield substantially shields said needle cannula, said shield comprising at least one support wall, a channel mounted to said support wall, said channel having a top wall and opposed first and second sidewalls extending from said top wall, at least one cannula finger lock projecting from said first sidewall angularly toward said top wall, said cannula finger lock being configured for trapping said needle cannula in response to rotation of said shield toward said second position.

18. (new) The safety needle assembly of claim 17, wherein said top wall of said channel comprises mounting structure for mounting said channel to said support wall, said channel having opposite first and second longitudinal ends, said mounting structure being closer to said first end of said channel than to said second end, whereby said channel can be disposed in either a first rotational orientation or in a second rotational orientation relative to said proximal end and said distal end of said shield for altering positions of said channel relative to said shield and said needle cannula.

19. (new) The safety needle assembly of claim 17, wherein said support wall has a distal end remote from said proximal end of said shield, said channel being dimensioned such that, in said second rotational orientation of said channel relative to said support wall, said second end of said channel projects distally beyond said distal end of said support wall.

20. (new) The safety needle assembly of claim 19, wherein said channel is dimensioned such that in said first rotational orientation, said first end of said channel substantially aligns with said distal end of said support wall.

21. (new) The needle assembly of claim 20, wherein said channel is dimensioned such that in said first rotational orientation, said second end of said channel is substantially adjacent said proximal end of said shield.

22. (new) The safety needle assembly of claim 18, wherein said at least one cannula finger lock comprises a plurality of cannula finger locks, a first of said cannula finger locks being substantially adjacent said first end of said channel and a second of said cannula finger locks being substantially adjacent said second end of said channel.

23. (new) The safety needle assembly of claim 17, wherein said support wall comprises a plurality of apertures extending therethrough, said channel having a plurality of mounting projections formed thereon, said mounting projections being dimensioned and disposed for locked engagement with said apertures in said support wall.

24. (new) The safety needle assembly of claim 17, wherein portions of said shield adjacent said proximal end are configured for partly surrounding said hub, said support wall extending substantially rigidly from said portions of said shield dimensioned for partly surrounding said hub.

25. (new) The safety needle assembly of claim 17, wherein said channel has an elongate convexly arcuate outer surface, said support wall having a concave surface for closely receiving said convex outer surface of said channel.